

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 280821Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8790

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 2316

EXDIS

ADDIS ABABA FOR ASST SECTY DAVIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINS, CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA)(SMITH, KENNETH STEVEN)

(HUNTER, CARRIE JANE)

SUBJ: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: RELEASED STUDENTS

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 2313

1. LEW MACFARLANE HAS REPORTED BY RADIO FROM KIGOMA AT 0830 HOURS LOCAL TODAY, 28 JUNE, THAT EMILIE BERGMANN AND CARRIE JANE HUNTER HAVE NOW LANDED AND ARE UNHARMED. THE GIRLS REPORT THAT STEVEN SMITH IS WELL.

2. AFTER A NUMBER OF FALSE STARTS BECAUSE OF ENGINE TROUBLES, THE BAPTIST MISSION BOAT WAS ABANDONED IN LAST NIGHT'S EXCHANGE EFFORT AND THE FAO BOAT WAS FINALLY USED AND LEFT KIGOMA AT MIDNIGHT. IN ADDITION TO THE CREW MEMBERS THAT BOAT CARRIED NORMAN HUNTER, FATHER OF CARRIE, AND ALFRED NONDO AND HIS AIDE, P. KATCHOKA.

3. UPON ARRIVING AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT, THE PRP PRODUCED

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THE TWO GIRLS BUT SAID THAT KENNETH STEVEN SMITH (NOTE CORRECT

SPELLING OF STEVEN) IS TO BE HELD FOR FOUR DAYS IN AN EFFORT TO MOVE TANGOV TO AN EARLY RELEASE OF PRP DETAINEES HELD IN TANZANIA. THEY GAVE ASSURANCES THAT REGARDLESS OF TANGOV ACTION, HOWEVER, SMITH WOULD BE RETURNED BY THEM TO KIGOMA ON WEDNESDAY, 2. JULY. MR. HUNTER, WHO WAS CARRYING THE RANSOM, AND WHO HAD DEVELOPED A CERTAIN CONFIDENCE IN NONDO, AGREED TO RELEASE OF RANSOM AFTER FIRST OFFERING QTE TWO-THIRDS NOW, ONE-THIRD WHEN SMITH IS DELIVERED UNQTE.

4. THE SUPPORT PARTY IN KIGOMA FEELS REASONABLY SANGUINE PRP WILL DELIVER ON ITS END OF THE BARGAIN. I AM INSTRUCTING OUR CONSUL MACFARLANE TO REMAIN IN KIGOMA PENDING SMITH'S RELEASE, AND DAVID HAMBURG OF STANFORD IS REMAINING ALSO.

5. THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR AND I WILL MEET STUDENTS WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT DAR ES SALAAM AIRPORT THIS EVENING AT APPROXIMATELY 1900 HOURS LOCAL AND WILL ESCORT THEM TO THEIR HOTEL. WE ARE ARRANGING A DEBRIEFING SESSION FOR 1000 HOURS LOCAL, SUNDAY, 29 JUNE, AND MR. HUNTER AND THE STUDENTS ARE MEETING WITH THE PRESS AT NOON SAME DAY. HUNTER, WHO WILL CHAIR PRESS MEETING, HAS ASKED MY DUTCH COLLEAGUE AND ME TO SIT IN ON CONFERENCE AND TO ASSIST HIM AS REQUIRED IN HANDLING STICKY QUESTIONS. UNLESS DEPT PERCEIVES OBJECTIONS, I INTEND TO DO SO, KEEPING IN MIND AT ALL TIMES THE GUIDANCE DEPT HAS OFFERED INCLUDING THE Q AND A. SOME OF THIS NECESSARILY WILL HAVE TO ALTERED IN VIEW OF THE PARTIAL RELEASE, AND I WILL TRY TO INDICATE IN SEPTTEL THOSE CHANGES WHICH MAY BE NECESSARY.

6. DEREK BRYCESON REPORTS THAT HE MET WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE THIS A.M. AND BRIEFED HIM ON THE KIGOMA DEVELOPMENTS. NYERERE IS QUOTED AS SAYING QTE I VALUE ONE LIFE AS MUCH AS I VALUE THREE. WE WILL DO NOTHING ABOUT THE RELEASE OF THE PRP DETAINEES UNTIL THE LAST OF THE STUDENTS IS RELEASED UNHARMED. UNQTE THIS WAS ALSO A MESSAGE WHICH WAS GIVEN TO ALFRED NONDO DURING THE EARLIER DISCUSSIONS, AND WE BELIEVE HE WOULD UNDERSCORE THIS POINT IN HIS PERSONAL REPORT TO KABILA. IN ANY EVENT, AMBASSADOR VAN DEN BERG AND I ARE AGREED THAT WE WILL NOT RPT NOT RAISE THE PGISONER ISSUE AT ALL. THIS CONDITION IS IN TANGOV COURT, AND WE INTEND THAT IT REMAIN THERE.

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7. MACFARLANE IS SENDING DOWN BY SAFE HAND A FULL REPORT THIS EVENING WHICH WE WILL TRANSMIT TO ADDRESSEES.

8. FOR KINSHASA: UNLESS DEPT PERCEIVES OBJECTIONS, WOULD SUGGEST GOZ BE ADVISED THAT TWO OF THE THREE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND IT IS HOPED THE REMAINING STUDENT WILL BE RELEASED NEXT WEEK.
CARTER

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NNN

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